

Ross P. Lanzafame, Esq.
Chair
National Board of Directors

January 31, 2013

Kathryn A. Forbes, CPA
Chair-Elect
National Board of Directors

Dear Senator/Representative:

Albert A. Rizzo, M.D.
Past-Chair

As the 113th Congress gets underway, the American Lung Association urges you to join the fight to prevent lung disease and promote lung health for all who live in America today. Your support for much needed research, education and prevention programs is vital in the fight against lung disease including asthma, COPD, influenza lung cancer and tuberculosis.

John F. Emanuel
Secretary/Treasurer

Lung disease is the third leading cause of death in the United States. Lung cancer is the leading cancer killer. More than 25 million people, including 7 million children, suffer from asthma. The nation is making progress to combat this toll but this advancement can only continue with sustained investment and strong laws. Below is an overview of critical lung health priorities and I have attached additional information for your consideration.

Marcia D. Williams, Ed.D.
Speaker
Nationwide Assembly

Audrene Lojovich
Speaker-Elect
Nationwide Assembly

- **Protect Non-Defense Discretionary Spending.** Investment in public health programs saves lives, reduces health costs and strengthens our nation. Critical public health agencies including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Environmental Protection Agency have already been cut dramatically.
- **Protect the Clean Air Act.** A rigorous, peer reviewed analysis of the costs and benefits of Clean Air Act found that air quality improvements under the Act will save \$2 trillion by 2020 and prevent at least 230,000 deaths annually. Congress should support full implementation and enforcement of the Clean Air Act.
- **Protect the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act.** Tobacco kills 443,000 Americans each year and costs the nation \$193 billion annually in lost productivity and healthcare costs. Congress should support full implementation and enforcement of the Act to reduce the devastating toll of tobacco use.
- **Ensure access to evidence-based quit smoking treatments. As the Department of Health and Human Services implements the Affordable Care Act, Congress should support** comprehensive, guidelines-based smoking cessation coverage that is most effective to help patients quit smoking.
- **Increase funding for NIH funding/biomedical research.** The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is critical in the fight to identify causes and effective treatment for lung diseases including asthma, COPD, influenza, lung cancer and tuberculosis.
- **Support the CDC's National Asthma Control Program.** This modest program funds 34 states to provide a comprehensive approach to helping more than 25 million Americans, including 7 million children, living with asthma better manage their disease, reducing hospitalizations and deaths.

Geri Reinardy, M.P.A.
Past-Speaker
Nationwide Assembly

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

1301 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20004-1725
Phone: (202) 785-3355
Fax: (202) 452-1805

14 Wall St.
Suite 8C
New York, NY 10005-2113
Phone: (212) 315-8700
Fax: (212) 608-3219

www.Lung.org

- **Protect the Prevention and Public Health Fund.** The Prevention and Public Health Fund is crucial in financing proven and effective public health and wellness programs. The Lung Association recommends that one-third of the fund be devoted to reducing tobacco use by funding tobacco prevention and cessation initiatives.
- **Support tobacco control initiatives at the Office of Smoking and Health (OSH) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).** Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States and costs this country \$96 billion a year in direct medical costs. OSH is the lead federal agency for tobacco prevention and control.

Thank you in advance for your support. As the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease through education, advocacy and research, the American Lung Association urges you to continue investments in public health in order to reduce the enormous burden of lung disease in the U.S.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul G. Billings". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul G. Billings
Senior Vice President, Advocacy and Education